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Page : 5 of 6

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REMARKS

The examiner rejects dependent claim 173 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the word "diagnoses" is objected to. The word "detect" has been substituted, and the claim has been changed to read:

> 173. The method of claim 172 in which the client is a program running on a computer and the plurality of data items are copies of data items that reside in the storage of the computer, and the application server detects a problem in the configuration of the computer, based on the plurality of data items.

The examiner rejects the independent claim 111 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Yuasa combined with Kanai.

The claimed invention involves using fingerprints to transmit a data item from a client to a data repository over a low speed connection, and giving access to the data item in the repository to an application server over a higher speed connection. A result is returned to the client over the lower speed connection. The data item has an expiration time, before which time both modification and deletion are not allowed.

Claim 111 has been amended to further distance it from Yuasa and Kanai. Two further limitations have been added:

> wherein the client reassigns the expiration time to a later time but no action taken by the client can cause the expiration time to be changed to an earlier time or cause the data item to be deleted at an earlier time than the expiration time; and
>
> wherein after the expiration time has passed deletion of the data item is allowed.

This is very different than a fixed expiration. In fact this is a very unusual constraint: the client can make the expiration time later, but cannot make it earlier or do anything that would cause the data to be deleted earlier. This is very different from a cache: the data item is protected until it expires and the client can extend the protection but not weaken it.

Dependent claim 113 has been amended to be consistent with the change in wording in claim 111. Claims 164 and 165 have become redundant and have been canceled. Four new claims have been added (all supported by the original disclosure, e.g., paragraphs [0055] and [0074] of the published application, US20020038296A1).

Allowance of the application is requested.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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